

Marines BOXING & WRESTLING

Marines Match Mettle

By Reserve Maj. Greg Reeder
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Nearly three thousand years ago, athletes—given safe passage to Olympia—arrived to compete in the Olympic celebration. Wrestling was one of the first sports.

Wrestling matches, in their early form, took place in “keromas,” muddy arenas, sticky with beeswax. Victory depended on one competitor acknowledging defeat. Boxing matches were indoctrinated into the games only a few years later. Roman boxers quickly raised the bar by adding weaponry to this sport of pugilism. The Romans further modified the sport by adding iron or brass studs to the Olympic leather gloves previously used as protection, and included weapons, such as the myrmex (limb-piercer) eventually migrating the sport to a ‘fight to the death’ for gladiatorial games.

Wrestling and boxing today, without the deadly outcome of their centuries-old ancestors, remain outlets for the competitive spirit of warriors.

Marines continue to carry on the tradition into the modern contending rings. Many Marines, both past and present



have risen to levels of national and international rankings—earning opportunities to participate, compete and take the gold in the Olympic games of today. **M**

Boxing History

- Boxing became part of the Olympics in 688 B.C.
- Fighters wore leather thongs, originally to protect their hands and wrists. As time went on, harder leather was used, turning the thongs into weapons.
- Variations of boxing evolved, including the famous Gladiator battles of Rome.
- Romans introduced the boxing “ring,” originally a simple marked circle.
- Organized boxing disappeared for centuries and eventually reappeared as a mixture of boxing and wrestling in London in the late 1600s—hitting with fists was emphasized and a boxer could grab and throw his opponent, then jump on him and hit him while he was down.



▲ **Cpl. Alisson Fasano swings a left hook** at her opponent and makes boxing history by being the first female boxer to fight in the Armed Forces Boxing Championships. Photo by Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez

◀ **Lance Cpl. John McClean, 20,** from Quincy, Fla., lands a blow on his opponent during a boxing smoker Dec. 1 at Camp Commando, Kuwait.

Photo by Cpl. Colin Wyers

▼ **Lance Cpl. Jesse Butler, 24,** from Thousand Oaks, Calif., levels a punch at his opponent during a boxing smoker Dec. 1, 2002 at Camp Commando, Kuwait.

Photo by Cpl. Colin Wyers





▲ **Antonio Portela (left)**, Albany Marine Band Musician, connects with a left hand to Joshua Bautista's face May 15 during a boxing event at the base tennis courts. Bautista works at MCCA recreation issue on base. Photo by Cpl. Nicholas Tremblay

• Jack Broughton, the "father of English boxing" drew up the first formal rules for the sport of boxing—introducing the boxing square, rounds, restricting punches to above the belt, and boxing gloves—although gloves were only permitted in practice fights.

• America's first genuine championship fight took place May 30, 1880, at Collier Station, W.V. Joe Goss, widely considered the English champion, faced challenger Paddy Ryan, a native of Ireland. They fought for nearly an hour and a half before Ryan knocked out Goss in the 87th round.

▼ **Chicago's Sgt. Angelina Summerfield** receives some coaching from her corner between rounds Nov. 21. Summerfield competed in this year's All-Marine boxing team preliminaries.

Photo by Sgt. Allan J. Grdovich



Marine Corps Boxing

• Boxing was once banned on Marine Corps bases throughout Okinawa due to lack of appropriate neurological and medical facilities

• MCCA boxing exhibitions take nearly one month of planning—from fighters and judges, to customer service and trophies for the fighters.

• Marine **Cpl. Alison Fasano** was one of the first female Marine boxers and the first woman to be crowned armed forces champion in the women's 119lb. weight class, during the first championship open to women boxers in 2002.

• **Gene Tunney** served his nation two times, in both world wars. During World War I, he represented the Marines in many well-known boxing contests against Army and Navy opponents. After leaving the Corps in 1919, he became the heavy-weight champion of the world, beating Jack Dempsey. He then successfully

defended that title, twice. In the 40s, Tunney served as the head of the Navy's physical fitness program, resigning as a captain in 1945.

USA Amateur Boxing 2003 Marines Rankings

- **Roberto Castillo**, Light Flyweight – 7th
- **Johnnie Edwards**, Featherweight – 9th
- **Jacob Garretson**, Light Heavyweight – 6th

Wrestling History

• Greco-Roman wrestling, in which holds below the waist are prohibited, was introduced to the Olympic games in 1906.

• From 1938 through 1980, medals were based on round robin competition. The wrestler with the fewest penalty points in the final round won the gold medal. If two or more wrestlers had the same number of penalty points in the in the final round, standings were based on the number of penalty points in previous rounds.

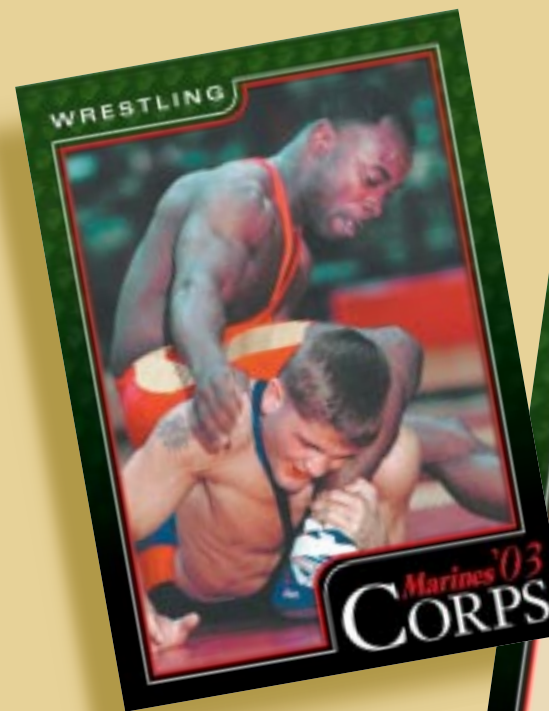
National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Class of 1996 – Outstanding American:

General Charles Krulak, 31st CMC

This selection demonstrates wrestling's pride in those who have used the disciplines of the sport to launch notable careers in other walks of life, such as science and technology, business and industry, government and the military, and the arts and humanities.

Marine Corps Wrestling Team Notable Achievements (National and International)

1998 – 1st Place: Armed Forces Greco-Roman Championship.
1999 – 2nd Place: Armed Forces Greco-Roman Championship.
2000 – 2nd Place: Armed Forces Greco-Roman Championship.
2000 – SGT Duaine Martin won a Gold medal at the CISM (which is the world military) championships.
2000 – Seven Marine wrestling team members selected to compete with the United States Armed Forces team in the International Military Sports Wrestling Championship.
2000 – Marine team coach selected as assistant coach for U.S. Olympic team
2001 – Winner - Armed Forces Championship.
2001 – SGT Marcel Cooper won a Gold medal at the Pan American



▲ **Andrell Durden (top)** and Edward Harris grapple for position during the All-Marine Wrestle Offs. Durden and Harris were later selected to serve on the All-Marine Wrestling team.

Photo by Sgt. James Covington

Championships and a Silver medal at the CISM championships.

2001 – Marine team coach selected as head coach for U.S. Armed Forces Wrestling team.

2001 – Silver Medal: CISM Games.

2002 – 5 Marines were members of the US National Team (ranked in the top three in the country in their respective weight class) **Staff Sgt. Duaine Martin; Staff Sgt. Marcel Cooper; Sgt. James Shillow; Sgt. Kenny Owens, and Capt. Dan Hicks** also won a Bronze medal at the CISM Championships and was named Male Marine Athlete of the Year.
2003 – Marine team coach selected as assistant coach for U.S. Greco-Roman World team.
2003 – 4 Marines members of the US National Team.

Marines Ranked Nationally 2003 U.S. Senior Greco-Roman Ranked

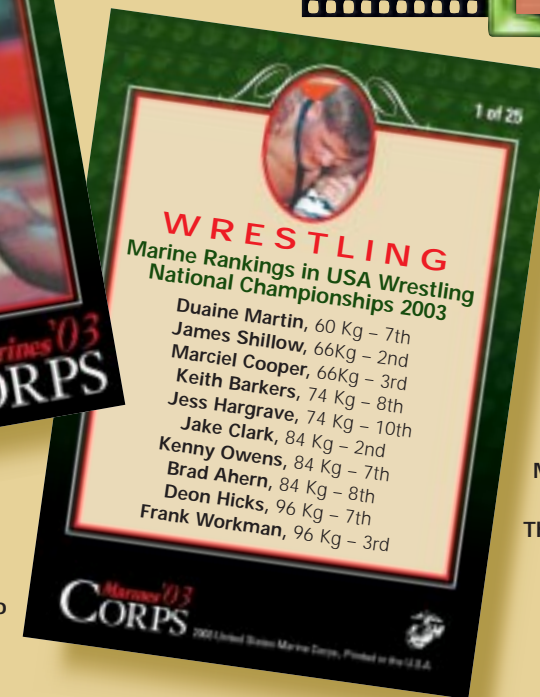
55 Kg/121 Lb
Duaine Martin
Chris Conner

66 Kg/145.5 Ln
James Shillow
Marcel Cooper

74 Kg/163 Lb
Keith Barkers
Brian Van Hoven

84 Kg/185 Lb
Jake Clark
Kenny Owens
Joey Clark

96 Kg/211.75 Lb
Dan Hicks
Deon Hicks
Frank Workman



▼ **Lance Cpl. Jeromy McLean**, combat engineer, Combat Engineer Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, goes for a "pin" as Lance Cpl. Eric Cardoza, a 3531 Motor Transport operator from 3rd TSB Okinawa, arches his back in defense. The double-elimination tournament held at the House of Pain recently, allowed wrestlers to compete until they were beaten twice, but only a few of the competitors gained respective wins without at least one defeat.

Photo by Sgt. Chris Eriksen

